Conveying of evidence of Mumbai train blasts

158. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether after receiving full facts from the State Government of Maharashtra over evidence of Pakistan's connection to the 11th July train blasts, the Union Government has conveyed this fact to the United States and also to the Pakistan Government;

(b) if so, whether India has also formulated a comprehensive anti-terror mechanism plan to be discussed with the Pakistan Government;

(c) if so, the response received so far from the Pakistan Government on this issue; and

(d) whether any date has been fixed for Secretary level talks to discuss this issue?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No.

(b) to (d) At their meeting on 14-15 November, 2006, the Foreign Secretaries of India and Pakistan agreed to set up a 3-member anti-terror mechanism. The mandate of the mechanism is to consider counter-terrorism measures. Pakistan has expressed willingness to cooperate based on specific inputs. The mechanism is yet to meet.

Indian Ocean Tuna Commission

159. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Legal and Treaties Division of Government have reviewed the negative impact of an international agreement signed between India and the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission in 1994;

(b) whether it is a fact that the agreement with IOTC (Indian Ocean Tuna Commission) was signed to obtain only goodwill for the country;